



I'll Find A Way Or Make One

THE PANTHER



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Convocation speakers give students advice on how to get ahead



By Glenneisha Stevenson
MANAGING EDITOR

Every path to success is not easy and one should be persistent while on his or her path to success, according to three Clark Atlanta University alumnae.

Panelists Helen Smith Price, president of the Coca-Cola Foundation and Jacque Reid, Emmy Award-winning co-host of "New York Live," along with moderator Krysta Underwood, co-host of "The Willie Moore Jr. Show"—a radio program catered to daily inspiration and uplifting news, gave students tips on how to reach success and how to deal with the trials and roadblocks while on the path to success during the CAU Founder's Day Spring Convocation held in the Epps Gymnasium last month.

The panelists and the moderator, all alumnae of CAU, shared through their experiences how they each embody the theme of the 29th Convocation:

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Photo by Curtis McDowell

Speakers at the annual Spring Convocation (left to right) CAU graduates Helen Smith Price, president of the Coca-Cola Foundation; Jacque Reid, Emmy-award winning co-host of "New York Live" on NBC TV 4 in New York; and Krysta Underwood, co-host of "The Willie Moore Jr. Show," a nationally syndicated radio program in more than 25 markets, pose with CAU President Dr. Ronald A. Johnson.

Spirit of Greatness Gala raises money for scholarships

By Tenisha Taylor Bell

Hundreds of Clark Atlanta University alumni, dignitaries and celebrities filled the Omni Hotel last month to raise educational scholarships for CAU students. The 9th Annual Spirit of Greatness Gala recognized alumni and pioneers who are making a positive contribution to CAU and society.

"Tonight is a recognition that our future is as bright as our past," CAU President Ronald A. Johnson said. "We are the essence of the spirit of greatness. The essence of our culture."

The evening of elegance honored Kenya Barris, Clark Atlanta University 1996, producer, writer and creator of the critically acclaimed ABC Network sitcom "Black-ish"; The Honorable Brenda



Photo by Curtis McDowell

SPIRIT OF GREATNESS GALA --- (left to right) Marshall Taggart, president, CAU National Alumni Association; Anthony White, Emmy-award winning videographer and journalist; Horace Henry, world-renowned photographer; The Honorable Brenda Hill Cole, Fulton County State Court Senior Judge; CAU President Dr. Ronald A. Johnson; Steve Ewing, president and owner of Wade Ford; Kenya Barris, producer, writer and creator of the critically acclaimed ABC Network sitcom "Black-ish"; and Al B. Reid, vice president of corporate development at Abbott Laboratories. (See story on page 6.)

Hill Cole, Atlanta University 1967, Fulton County State Court Senior Judge; Horace Henry, Clark College 1971, world-renowned

photographer; Anthony White, Clark Atlanta University 1999, Emmy-award winning videographer and journalist; Al B. Reid, Clark College

1983, vice president of corporate development at Abbott Laboratories; and Steve Ewing, president and

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NEWS

Convocation speakers give students advice on how to get ahead

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Undaunted, Undeterred, Undenied: Lifting Every Voice.

Underwood posed questions to the panelists that sparked conversation and information from details of their experiences through their walks of life and how they relate to their careers.

Each question posed gave insight into the panelists' personal experiences that gave students a look at different individuals and experiences that had the same result: success.

Underwood asked, "What is find a way or make one for you?"

"When I came here I transferred; it was figuring out what I wanted to do," Reid, who serves as a correspondent on the nationally syndicated "Tom Joyner Morning Show," responded. "I knew I wanted to be a journalist, but I didn't know what that meant... That would never have happened if I did not come to Clark."

Price, Coca-Cola's vice president of Global Community Affairs, responded, "With HBCUs, there is an expectation that you can do it, and that you should do it. You find empowerment and nurturing in a way that should strengthen your core..."

Underwood expressed how she understands that "it's not easy being successful." Her sentiments brought upon the next question, "How do you fight those trials of people telling you 'No,' especially as an African-American woman?"

"You can't listen to the 'NOs,'" Reid responded, simply. "For me, 'no' doesn't really mean anything to me."

Price responded more in-depth with an explanation that "not every path is easy." Noting that very few paths are easy, she emphasized that "you can fall down... it doesn't



Photo by Curtis McDowell

At 103 years old, Charity Barnes (center seated), is the the oldest living alumna of Clark College, now Clark Atlanta University. She was recognized at the Founders Day Convocation. Barnes is surrounded by CAU President Dr. Ronald A. Johnson (standing center), CAU's First Lady Irene O. Johnson (front row left), Sparta, Georgia Mayor William Evans (front row right) and other friends and family. Barnes graduated in 1949 with a B.S. in Mathematics. She is a retired educator who remains active.

matter you fell, the important thing is" that one should get up and continue on.

Underwood also asked the panelists the type of things they would look for in someone to hire. Both panelists responded with the main concept of each of their responses being to stay active and persistent in reaching goals. Price emphasized that "you have to go after things, but you have to do the research to be better informed of what you're going after and why you'd be fit for it."

And Reid highlighted "someone who is assertive, hard-working and encouraged by diversity, not discouraged by it.

The panelists agreed that students

should engage in activities like internships and study abroad programs to help develop their life skills.

Underwood's last question simply called for the panelists' closing remarks. "This moment now is so important, and it will be over like that," Reid stressed. "While you are still here, take advantage of being a student. Life goes so fast; do not waste a minute of it."

Price, agreeing with Reid, also stressed the need to "eliminate distractions from your life. If it's not helping you get where you need to go, if they are not helping you live a life that is pleasing to you, eliminate the distractions and keep it moving."



Photo by Curtis McDowell

Dr. Curtis Powell (right) directs the Clark Atlanta University Philharmonic Society at the Founders Day Convocation March 23.

Students showcase skills during annual Research and Innovation Week

By Alysha Conner and Alexis Cranford

Each year Clark Atlanta University hosts a Research and Innovation Week that includes a range of activities that occur throughout the campus, that involves hard work and research conducted by many Atlanta University Center students in various majors and classifications.

Research and Innovation week is a weeklong activity to showcase the importance of research and how it is used in all aspects of life. Events took place from March 27-31 where AUC students, both graduate and undergraduate, were able to present their projects.

The week kicked off with the GIS Symposium on Monday, Graduate Research Symposium on Tuesday, CURC'S Undergraduate Research Symposium on Wednesday, CIED Hackathon & Pitch Competition on Thursday, concluding with the CAU Art Museum on Friday.

In the all-day symposium in the Exhibition Hall of the Thomas W. Cole Research Center, all academic majors were able to participate under the direction of a Clark Atlanta faculty member. More than 10 students eagerly presented their information in front of other contestants and a host of judges in hopes of winning the monetary prize for each category.

Micah Smith, a freshman, Criminal Justice major from Detroit, participated in the symposium and said it was an awesome experience. Smith presented her project on Breast Cancer awareness amongst African-American women. Smith's project addressed the social problem that disproportionally affects African-American women.

"Researchers like myself want to know why breast cancer strikes African-American women more than other races," Smith stated. Smith says she was inspired by an old professor, Dr. Michael Woodard, to conduct the research and submit it to the CURC.

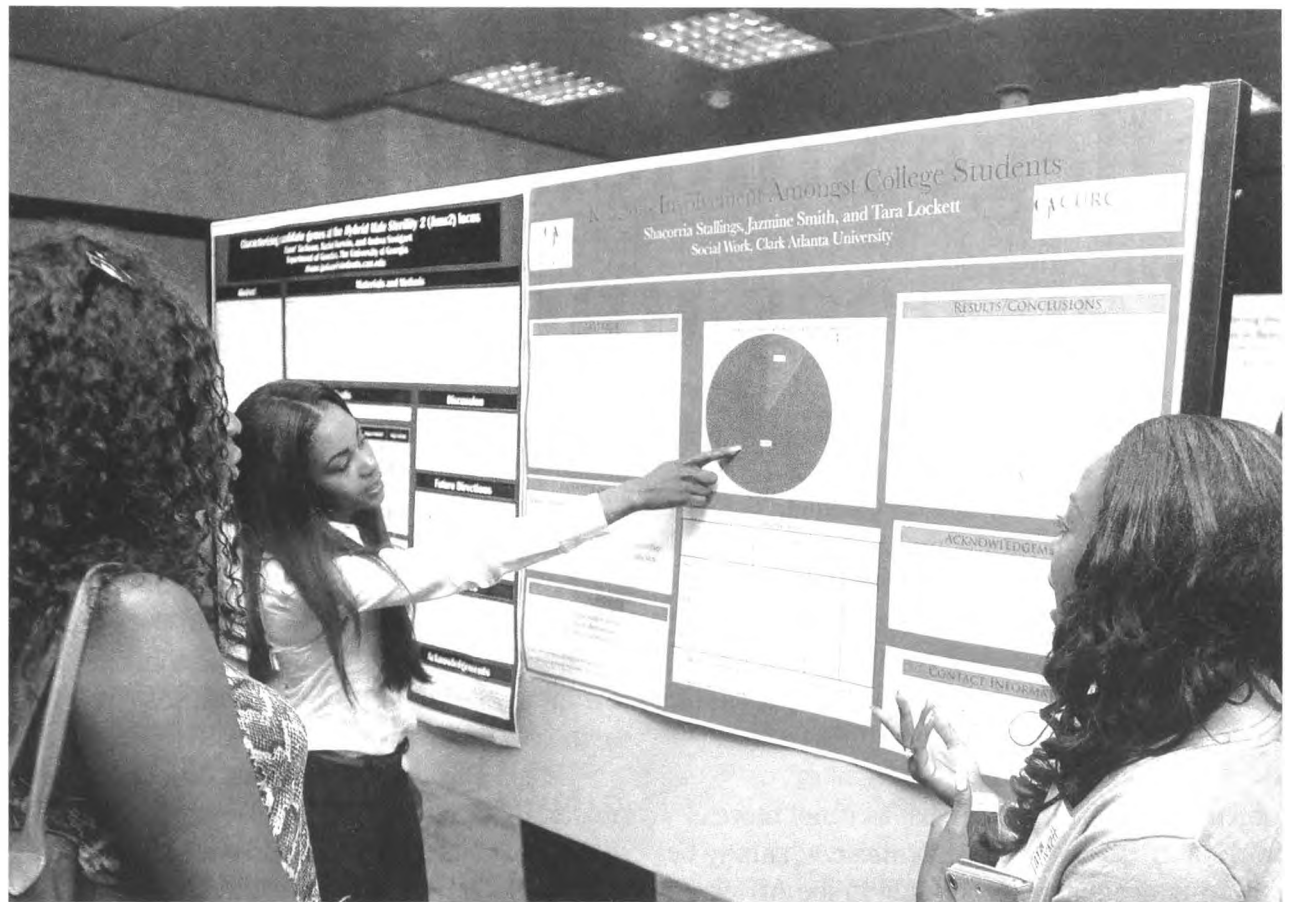


Photo by Curtis McDowell

Student presents project at symposium during second annual Research and Innovation Week.

Although Smith did not win she said she gained a lot of knowledge from this experience and promises to continue her research in breast cancer amongst African-American woman. The winners of the symposium were announced the following day. First Place: "Transformation and Purification of Plasmid DNA in Prostate Cancer," by Latifa Liburd, Biology, senior, and Jade McCombs, Biology, senior. Second Place: "Simultaneous Inhibition of Arly Hydrocarbon Receptor (AhR) Src abolishes androgen receptor," by Alexis Carey, Biology, freshman. Third Place: "Computational Study of the Binding of Histidine and Proline with Graphene," by Taylor Dorlus, Chemistry, junior.

Some of the other research topics discussed during the oral presentations were: "An Early Analysis of Black Millennial's Political

Participation during the Trump Era," "A Seat at the Table: Analysis of Systematic Exclusion Based on Race and Sexual Orientation in Clinical Trials," "The Fashion Industry's Effect on Black Expression: Analysis of AUC Students," and "You Reap What You Sow: Black Women and the Prosperity Gospel."

Breighlynn Polk, CAU senior and History major, presented her research on "But as for Me and My House: An Analysis of the Black Family Living in Jim Crow America." Her analysis depicted the "Exploration of the importance of the Black family during Jim Crow relies on the falsified accusations of Black parenthood made in the 1965 Moynihan Report in relation to memoirs and oral accounts of African Americans who raised their children during the enforcement of Jim Crow laws."

Essentially, the purpose for her research was to convey the importance of the black family raising their children in the Deep South, while also attending to the truths behind the living contradictions of the black family. She touched bases on the "Lack of education for the Negro led to the division of the black family, black men held no respect by their white counterparts, black sons did not look up to their fathers, black women distrusted the presence of black men." She further detailed how activism, organizations, and leadership all influence the African-American family.

Polk, as well as the many other participants, assured their research would not conclude with the CAU Symposium. Furthering their educational training and conducting a more in depth research on their topics, was popularly mentioned. In doing so, participants subconsciously acknowledged that their topic was a field of study that speaks to their inquisitive minds and their passion to alleviate racial and social disparity, bringing unspoken truths to the light.

Brianna Bailey, senior Criminal Justice major, attendee of the symposium, said, "My overall experience of the research symposium was delightful. I was able to witness my fellow classmates provide detailed explanations of certain theories and research. The participants were allowed the perfect amount of time, which made it easier to capture and keep the attention of the audience."

Alumni discuss 'Life after CAU'

By Alix Young
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CAU Alumni returned to their home ground to share their post-graduation experience with fellow students recently.

Life after CAU was a panel discussion presented by the senior class council 'Elite17' designed for the future alumni to mingle with alumni, network and discuss what life is really like after graduation.

"With a little under two months left until graduation, it's time to start solidifying plans for life after CAU," senior Vice President Ariana French stated.

The event took place on March 28 in the Thomas Cole Boardroom. Although the senior class council hosted the event, all classifications were welcomed. Paige Crumbie, Marquez Davis, Onya Hankins, Crystal Helton and Kori Vines led the roundtable discussion and spoke about both their personal experiences and accomplishments since graduating. Tracey Paggett, who is the Program Coordinator for Fraternity and Sorority Life/Clubs, was also a speaker.

An estimated 30 students showed up where they listened to alumni give advice and tips on how to be successful after walking the stage. The six alumni each told their own story followed by a question and answer segment at the end where they answered any questions regarding a post-graduation life.

Kori Vines graduated in May 2015 with a B.A. in Computer Science. Shortly after graduation, he secured a job at General Motors IT Innovation Center where he works as a QA Analyst.

Vines said he was honored to be invited back to speak at his alma mater. "This event was great and I hope I was able to make some type of impact and provide valuable information. Always remember, there is life after college," Vines said.

Senior Psychology major Tataneshia Middleton says that the discussion provided her with helpful tips and she thought it was very beneficial.

Depression among college students often goes undetected

By Laurence Morreale

Depression and mental illness in the African-American community is a monster that many do not want to deal with. It is similar to the commercial where there are two people in the room and a 600 pound gorilla, yet the two people are not saying a word about the gorilla to each other.

It takes up the same amount of space as the gorilla and is just as if not more uncomfortable, especially for those who may be suffering in silence. Depression in the African-American community is already tough to talk about but when it's mixed in with college students, especially historically black college students then it is a different story.

College students are most likely to start exhibiting traits of mental illness because in most cases mental illness symptoms start showing in people during their college years, which is usually ages 18-21. The most common mental illness in the African-American community is Clinical Depression, which is

characterized by at least two weeks of low mood that is present across most situations. It is often accompanied by low self-esteem, loss of interest in normally enjoyable activities, low energy and pain without a cause.

This article uses expertise from a professional to help trace the roots of depression in the African-American community, how students on HBCU campuses cope with their depression, and how students can get help and turn their life around.

Dr. Christopher K. Bass, of the Department of Psychology at CAU, is a mental health professional who has practiced psychology and conducted research for over 20 years. He has also worked on many Historically Black college campus's as well as predominately white institutions for over 18 years and is also an alumni of CAU. He was chosen to be interviewed on this subject for his experience as a student, mental healthcare professional, and current faculty member of a historically black college.

When asked why there is such a major stigma in the Black community for seeking treatment with mental illness Dr. Bass said, "Because of many factors, but it's noteworthy to state that we have a long sorted history of being used as test subjects within the annals of psychology and psychiatry in this country. As detailed in the book; 'Medical Apartheid,' we were subject to many unethical and destructive trials and 'treatments' for much of our time on this continent.

"This is very true when you look at examples such as the famed Tuskegee experiment where black service men in Tuskegee, Alabama were led to believe that

their government prescribed medications were actually treating syphilis. We understand now that the government conducted this experiment to understand the effects of untreated syphilis on the human body. Horror stories such as these have added to the paranoia in the Black community of people being afraid to go see a doctor and tell their deepest, darkest secrets of themselves to a stranger."

Dr. Bass also mentioned how the stigma of already being a minority also plays a role in why African-Americans do not seek help. "I may be Black but I am not crazy!" is something some African-Americans may tell themselves and others to avoid getting help because it is perceived as being a weakness.

Organized religion is also a factor, since African-Americans statistically outwardly express concepts of spirituality more so than other ethnic groups in the United States. This is common especially in the "Bible Belt" South where blacks are more likely to go to church every Sunday compared to other ethnic groups. The common belief that penitence and prayer

The amount of sunlight students receive can also have an effect on mental health.

can stop or aid mental illness alone is something that impacts the psyche of the Black community and causes many to reject the idea of pursuing professional help.

When talking about students attending HBCUs, the conversation of mental health becomes even more unsatisfying. Students are often met with health clinics that do not meet their needs. One student who asked not to be identified, said, "The counseling center on campus does not really help." Attempts at receiving services for significant mental health services at the school's health center were also futile. He went on to say, "They just give you a list of places that may or may not be able to help you and send you on your way."

A list of facilities to seek mental health treatment may be helpful but at the same time it makes students even more vulnerable when they may be pushing themselves to their own limits asking for treatment in the first place.

This type of scenario can lead students who may be embarrassed or ashamed of their mental illness to end their journey of seeking mental health indefinitely, which in turn causes even more pain for people going through this trauma to feel like they have no true support system, which Dr. Bass says is extremely important when trying to deal with mental illness,

"Get a support network. They may not have all of the tools to help you get all the way through, but they can still help," he said.

Of course, seeking out professional help is key when experiencing psychological disturbances. Whatever you decide to do, Dr. Bass urges you to "Talk to someone. Do not

hold onto your issues alone."

Anxiety is also another illness prevalent among college students who are usually trying to balance working part time and also being a full time student. Many students feel under pressure, which can lead to developing bad habits (including self-medication) that can be maladaptive to pursuing mental health treatment. Habits such as smoking, drinking, smoking marijuana are all common among college students including students.

The way to avoid developing a habit is to try to have a balanced schedule. People who have a balanced schedule where they have time to get their objectives done and also have time to rest and exercise are usually less likely to engage in the aforementioned habits.

Also, people who exercise are typically less likely to be depressed. According to work done by Dr. Michael Otto; "research shows that exercise can also help alleviate long-term depression." Dr. Otto says that even jogging for at least five minutes can boost someone's mood.

The amount of sunlight students receive can also have an effect on mental health because sunlight plays an important role. Students from places where the exposure of sun is more common (ie., California) typically show fewer symptoms of depression when they first come to school because they are used to getting more than enough vitamin B12 from the amount of sunlight.

Dr. Bass said, "Seasonal Affective disorder can occur when your sun ratio is off, you are not receiving enough B12 and this can ultimately cause seasonal depression." There are, of course, many other reasons for depressive symptomology including genetics and situational occurrences. Also substance use and abuse as well as diet and many of the foods that students typically eat are not good.

Dr. Bass expressed concern for the millennial generation's use of social media. He said, "The biggest therapists in the world right now are Instagram, Facebook and Snapchat." He made the point that when young people, especially college students, feel down, they go to these platforms to boost themselves up because of the instant gratification these social media outlets give to people who may be dealing with depression or anxiety.

"The only problem with this gratification is that it is short term," Dr. Bass said. People who look for a boost from these websites when they post a picture or gain followers are trying to pick themselves up but they eventually run into the same problem all over again when they are dealing with depression because there is only so much praise someone can get off of one post until a person is dealing with the same issues all over again.

Finding mental health support can be extremely overwhelming for people, especially young African-American college students, since many come from communities where seeking mental health is not a common thing. Although there are many problems the African-American community must address when it comes to mental health awareness, Dr. Bass believes that millennials and future generations of young African-Americans people are dealing with mental health in a positive way and eventually it will be less of a social stigma behind seeking help.

"We are slow moving cars in a fast moving freeway. This can cause depression and anxiety," Dr. Bass said. "Once we learn to move at the speed we are comfortable with, maybe then we can move forward."

Rising tuition causes many students to resort to alternative methods to fund education

By Alysha Conner

Tuition and fees have steadily increased and added to cost of attendance over the years at the campuses of the Atlanta University Center.

Clark Atlanta University's current cost of attendance is around \$35,000 a year. Spelman College and Morehouse college cost of attendance is nearly \$45,000.

This year, the campuses of the AUC required all students, traveling and non-traveling, to pay for a meal plan. The mandatory meal plan is an additional \$500 a year. Many upperclassmen are not too happy about the additional fee.

Compared to the average private not-for-profit four-year college in Georgia, \$21,000, the AUC is more expensive. According to *U.S. News & World Report*, 96.5 percent of students applied for need base aid. Only 39.7 percent of the students' needs were fully met.

Traditionally, an undergraduate student is a teenager who is a recent high school graduate. Considering he or she had the privilege of obtaining a scholarship or other outside sources of financial assistance, all the necessary financial funds to attend a higher education institute, such that of the schools in the AUC, takes a considerable amount effort to earn.

For those students who are fortunate enough to know Salle Mae or other loan companies, they will have to face the inevitable dilemma of paying back the loan after their matriculation in college. The transition after college can be a struggle. After four or more years of learning and planning, the execution to manifest all that one has strived for may still take time. While striving to find their way in the world, they must always find the to pay back their student loans. It is like a never-ending cycle, all for young adults that are just trying to work to be competitive and successful in their career field.

Funds can be hard to acquire right after graduation. By the time students' graduate, they will be in thousands of dollars of debit. According to the *Student Loan Hero*: "It's 2017 and Americans are more burdened by student loan debt than ever. You've probably heard the statistics: Americans owe nearly \$1.3 trillion in student loan debt, spread out among about 44 million borrowers. In fact, the average Class of 2016 graduate has

\$37,172 in student loan debt, up six percent from last year."

More statistics given by *Student Loan Hero* indicate that total U.S. student loan debt is extremely high. There are 44.2 million Americans with student loan debt. For borrowers aged 20 to 30 years, the average monthly student loan payment is \$351. Young adults at that age are trying to find their way after just completing school, and trying to start their careers. Entitled to pay \$351 in student loans a month, right after college puts students in a compromising financial matter. This has led to the current student loan delinquency rate being 11.0 percent.

Jordan Barry, sophomore Mass Media Arts student at CAU, said, "In life, you will always be in debt for something. You may not go to school but you still have to survive and live. You may get a car or a house or a credit card. All those things do not hold value over time but an investment in your education does not depreciate!"

Though students may uphold a part-time job while in school, it is unlikely to be able to save as much as what is needed to have a stable living and be able to repay student loans with interest.

Even the money saved while working a part-time job in college could put a student at risk in terms of his or her education.

In the *American Educa-*

Chef shares Chilean dishes with students, faculty

By Alana Howard

Sodexo Global Chef Nicolas Martinez visited Clark Atlanta University last month to share the flavors of Chile to the students at CAU.

"The flavor of my country is the flavor of the people there: the recipes and the history of my country," Chef Martinez said.

In the private dinner, Martinez presented the foods of his culture, which consisted of a large variety of seafood. The dishes included dressing, salami, Chilean shrimp, marinated salmon, clams, and lamb covered with Chilean spices.

On the following day, Martinez prepared and served the Chilean dishes at a station in Crogman Eatery for approximately 25 students, faculty and staff.

"Spreading my culture is important because it represents my home and the people of all generations because my culture is

tional Research Journal, Kleitman Marsh wrote:

"As students work longer hours, they achieve at lower levels academically, are more likely to engage in negative behaviors, have lower academic and career aspirations, and are less likely to hold leadership positions, engage in extracurricular activities, and attend or stay in college.

These negative effects are persistent across gender groups, racial groups, differing socioeconomic status levels, and academic abilities."

CBS News reported, "A new U.S. Census report determined that 71 percent of the nation's 19.7 million college undergraduates were working in 2011. Of that number, one in five undergrads were working at least 35 hours a week year-round."

Bria Rankin, senior Broadcast and Film major at CAU, said: "I was offered a job through the city of Atlanta in which my dad works. Luckily I didn't have to do much and one was just put into my lap. It definitely can be hard juggling the two. Especially when you have bills to pay at the age I am. I encourage any and every student who is in school to get through those four years as fast as you can because balancing it all can be challenging."

Many students are facing financial responsibilities from all other sources other than tuition.

Students are responsible for book fees, equipment for school based needs (depending on their major), and simply for lifestyle needs. In some students' cases, they are responsible for paying expenses for: rent, utilities, car note, gas, food or even raising a child.

As time evolves, tuition prices rise, and so does the cost of living. Maintaining lifestyles needs all while trying to uphold finances for educational purposes, is the circumstance for many college students today. It has led to students taking matters into their own hands for their ambition for higher education.

Jobs obtained by college students while in school vary from all different fields. Some of them include: retail sales, food service, teaching or more popular here in Atlanta is working at strip clubs. Though the students in the AUC work in different industries, they all possess the same goal. That is, to be able to earn funds that will help them maintain life in college.

Ivy Gopaul, recent CAU Mass Media Arts graduate, said, "All I can really say is just be prepared for all possible outcomes when it comes to paying back your student loans and make sure you set yourself up so that you don't have to worry too much about things like that."



Sodexo Global Chef Nicolas Martinez (right) shows off his culinary skills. different than it is here. Cooking is a large part of how I show what my culture is all about," Chef Martinez said.

"This university is beautiful, to me it is a true pleasure to be cooking for the students, and it is an honor for me cooking my recipes, and my flavor while

representing my country," he added. With the cafeteria flowing with an ample amount of students from 11-2 p.m., Martinez was able to add to the students' daily food selection, while introducing them to Chile's culture through the food and fun facts placed around the station.

Annual Spirit of Greatness Gala raises money for scholarships

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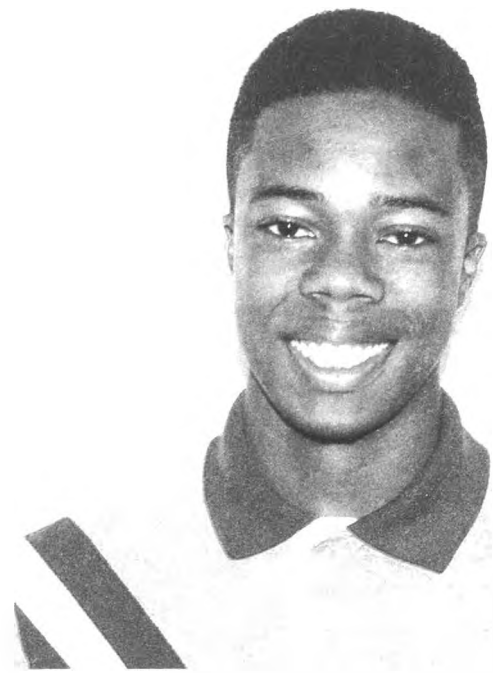
owner of Wade Ford. The event was emceed by KDKA-CBS Pittsburgh Anchor Lisa Washington Rushing and former DeKalb County Interim CEO Lee May, both Clark Atlanta University 1998 alumni.

Barris, who started his career by selling jokes to comedians, kept the crowd laughing during his acceptance speech but then turned sentimental as he reminisced. "Clark Atlanta University played an integral part in the success I enjoy today," he said. "The lessons, friendships, trials and triumphs gained during my time at CAU all helped propel me to where I am now."

Like Barris, several of the honorees spoke of their humble beginnings: "My mom had me at the age of 15, we didn't have much, said White whose emotional speech had the crowd in tears. "We couldn't afford for me to go to college, then one day I got a call from CAU, they accepted me, and that's why I am here today," the tearful 12-time Emmy Award winner added.

The Spirit of Greatness Gala to date has raised more than \$1.5 million for CAU students. Alumni from all over the country attend the black-tie gala. This year, actor/comedian Justin Hires of "Stomp the Yard," "21 Jump Street" and "Rush Hour" made a surprise visit.

Guests dined and danced to the sounds of Grammy-winner Howard Hewett.



Ronald McCullough Jr.

McCullough to graduate in May two years early

By Aliyah Janae Johnson

A former child genius is set to graduate in May from Clark Atlanta University two years early.

Ronald McCullough Jr., an Atlanta native, will receive his B.A. in Biology on May 22. He will graduate with honors at the age of 19. McCullough skipped the second grade which allowed him to graduate from Maynard Jackson High School at a youthful age of 15.

Following his mothers' footsteps, who is a CAU alumna, he enrolled at CAU in the fall of 2013. During his matriculation at CAU, McCullough has become a member of numerous honor societies, including the Isabella T. Jenkins Honors Program and the Kappa Phi Honor Society—which is set to provide students with the ultimate learning experience.

Growing up McCullough was recognized by his peers, family and teachers as a genius but says he has always felt like a regular teenager. He said, "I will not consider myself a genius. I was placed in a setting for my love of learning to manifest. Much was expected of me and there was little room for disappointment."

McCullough aspires to be an astronaut. Upon his graduation, he plans on going into a graduate engineering program. McCullough has been recruited by several of post-graduate engineering programs but says he intends to enroll in the biological/agricultural engineering program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

"I just wake up in the morning and do the right thing," he said when asked about being so successful at a young age. "Just by doing what I believe is the right thing for my future. I've been rewarded greatly."

Sanders sets sights on NBA draft

By Craig Allen Brown
SPORTS EDITOR

Tim Sanders has been a standout on the basketball court since he was in high school.

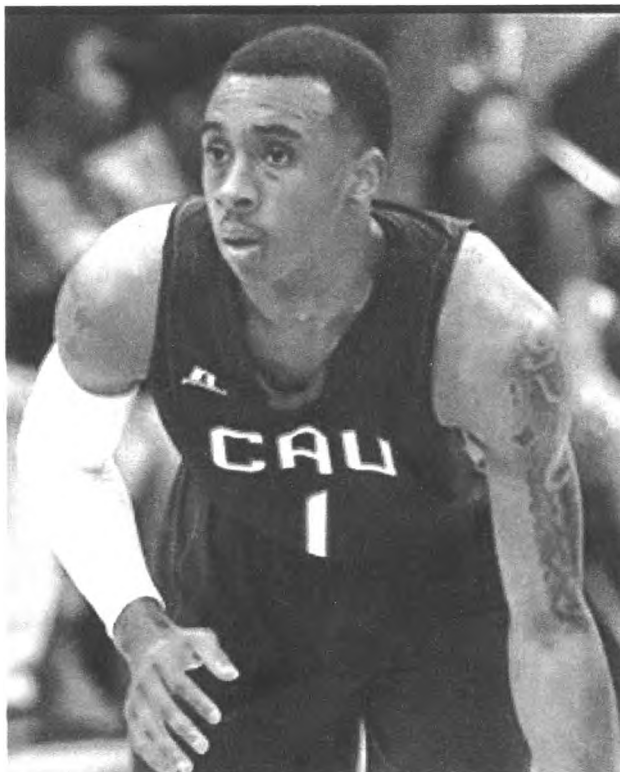
He has excelled alongside great players like current University of Alabama standout Daniel Giddens, and current Boston Celtics star Jaylen Brown. So now that his time as a basketball player for Clark Atlanta University is up, it only makes sense that he takes his career to another level. Sanders has declared for the 2017 NBA Draft.

The 6'2" shooting guard from Memphis, Tennessee had an exceptional senior campaign. His team won a share of the regular season SIAC East division championship and the SIAC men's tournament championship. Along with those accomplishments, Sanders also won the Most Valuable Player Award for the SIAC tournament.

Sanders gives much of the credit to first-year head coach Darrell Walker. "Playing for Coach Walker was difficult at times, but it was more positive than anything," he said. "Overall, playing for him was a good learning experience, and a lot of fun."

Sanders led a Panther team that only tallied nine wins last year, to 21 wins this year. With this being his final year, he stated that he couldn't have picked a better way to go out.

"We won three tough games in a row



Tim Sanders

in order to clinch a share of the SIAC East," he said. "And to beat Lane College for my last game in front of the CAU home crowd was amazing."

Sanders hopes to have similar success on the next level. He is revising his meal and workout plans in an attempt to get his body more NBA-ready. He will participate in the upcoming NBA combines, an event designed to demonstrate how physically and mentally ready a player is to NBA scouts and coaches.

The Panther newspaper's new leadership team

Craig Allen Brown has been selected as the editor-in-chief of the *Panther* newspaper for next year. Alana K. Howard has been named the managing editor and Alexis Cranford will be the new Lifestyle editor.

Brown and Howard are Mass Media Arts majors. Cranford's major is English.



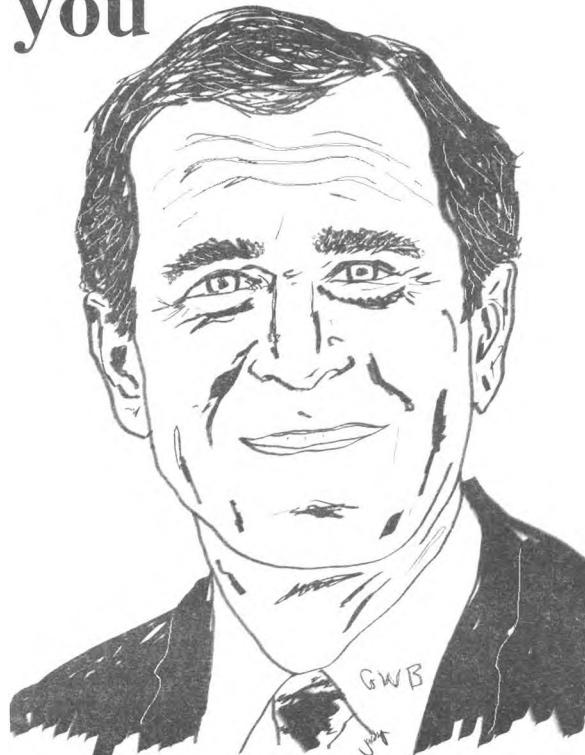
Craig Allen Brown



Alana K. Howard

EDITORIAL

That look when you realize that you are no longer the stupidest president in the history of the United States!



THE PANTHER

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One dumb decision after another

By Laurence Morreale

President Trump's seemingly presidential attitude in his address to the House of Representatives last month feels like a distant memory.

Since his address he has continued to engage in Twitter rants, has been investigated by the FBI for conflict of interest with Russian diplomats during his campaign and has failed to pass the Republican replacement for Obamacare even with a majority Republican House of Representatives.

The president's latest achievement repealed former president Obama's Clean Power Plan, which was an initiative by the Obama administration to regulate carbon emissions from factories and propel America toward clean energy. This was done in accordance with the 2015 Paris agreement where major carbon emitting countries met and came up with resolutions that required them to move towards clean energy.

The Paris plan's ultimate goal was to

keep the planet from rising in temperature 3.6 degrees, which scientists say will cause food shortages, natural disaster, and make sea levels rise. President Trump's goal was to roll back on regulations Obama put in place so he could keep his promises he made to his working class voter base. Specifically coal miners and factory workers who voted for Trump based off of the promises he made to them, which was to get their jobs back.

Although the Clean Power Plan slanted these type of jobs out of the economy and focused more on clean energy jobs rather than jobs for working class Americans, its goal was still to help Americans and ultimately the world. President Trump although eager to keep his promises, does not seem to be giving Americans confidence in him besides those who voted for him.

Even Republicans are having trouble trusting the president, which was proven these past two weeks when the Republican majority House of Representatives failed to pass their own replacement for Obamacare which

angered many Republican voters.

China, the biggest carbon-emitting nation in the world is even pulling back on its dependence on coal and fossil fuel energy. It has developed programs to slow down the damage it is causing to the planet. If China, a country with over 1 billion people can make a change in its carbon footprint, then so should the United States.

In the end, the people who will truly suffer from these repeals of the Clean Power Plan are the over 1 billion additional people who will be added to the Earth's population in the next 20 to 30 years. Trump backing out of this plan makes it difficult to hold other countries accountable who had signed the Paris plan to create clean energy economies.

Guns don't belong on college campuses

By Alana Howard

For the second year in a row, Georgia lawmakers passed a bill that allowed open carry on public college and university campuses.

The House passed the controversial bill on the last day of the legislative session. The Senate passed it earlier in the week. It is awaiting the signature of Gov. Nathan Deal, who vetoed a similar bill last year.

The measure would allow adults over the age of 21 with a gun permit to open carry on a public college and university campuses, with exceptions of dormitories, fraternity and sorority houses, and buildings that house athletic events, and areas that high-school students attend classes. There are also other areas of gun prohibitions in selected areas on public campuses included in the bill.

When he vetoed the bill last year, Gov. Deal questioned whether carrying guns on campus would increase student safety. He then said, "From the early days of our nation and state, colleges have been treated as sanctuaries of learning where firearms have not been allowed. To depart from such time-honored protections should require overwhelming justification. I do not find that such justification exists."

But there are conservatives and vocal Second Amendment activists who feel carrying firearms is necessary for those in the school community to protect themselves with many pointing to the rise in mass killing on campuses throughout the country.

There are 17 states that ban carrying concealed weapons on campus, Georgia included.

There are 23 states that have left it to the state's universities and colleges to ban or allow open carry on campus. Nine states are having provisions allowing the carrying of concealed weapons on public postsecondary campuses. Utah is the only state to specifically name the public universities and colleges that do not have the authority to open carry on campus.

With rising controversy on Gov. Deal rejecting the bill, it is unknown whether he would change his mind on this year's bill.

He should follow the same rationale he had last year. Putting guns in the hands of faculty and students is not the solution for enhancing their safety.

Gov. Deal, veto the bill.

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SPORTS

Clark falls to University of Alabama at Huntsville in NCAA Tournament

By Craig Allen Brown
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite a strong showing by the Panthers, CAU was defeated by the University of Alabama at Huntsville (UAH) Chargers, 81-96 in the NCAA tournament game that took place on March 11, on the UAH campus.

Spirits were high among the CAU faithful, as the Panthers had made it to the national championship tournament for the first time in five years. But they would be in for a fight. UAH (24-7) was the number one ranked team in the South Region, and they had the luxury of playing on their home court.

Things went south for the Panthers almost immediately. Less than two minutes into the game, CAU leading rebounder Lawrence Triplett sustained a hamstring injury that would prevent him from playing the rest of the game.

However, on the very next play, Anthony Williams would sink the first of his many made three-pointers, giving CAU their first lead of the game.

After a dunk by UAH's Justin Ward ignited the home crowd, the Panthers would waste no time striking back. The Panthers would sink four three-pointers in a row – two by Williams, one by Derek Harper, and the last by

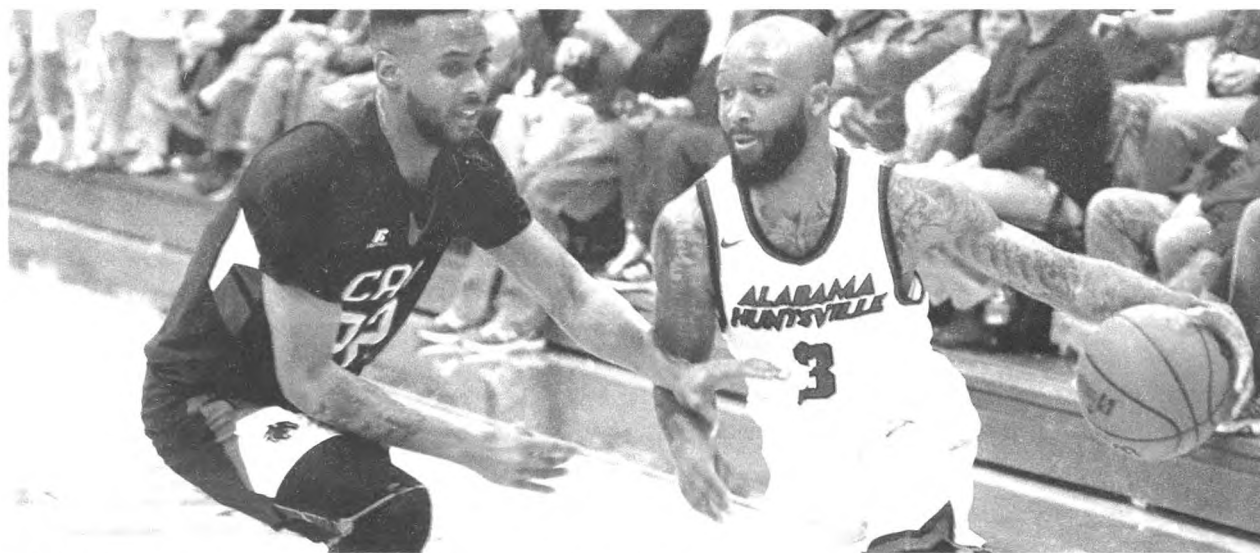


Photo by Chuck Edgeworth

CAU Tajai Johson defends UAH guard Brandon Roberts.

Chuka Eneh – to reclaim the lead, 32-38.

However, UAH would go on a run of its own to close out the first half. The Chargers would connect on three three-pointers and three free throws to go on a 12-1 run, including a three-pointer at the buzzer by UAH's Chayse Elliot. The score at halftime was 43-53, UAH.

UAH would come out strong after the break. Brandon Roberts and Dalton Barkley would both hit two lay-ups apiece, giving UAH a 52-67 advantage. But the Panthers would not lie down. Tajai Johnson had a ferocious block of a dunk attempt by the 6'6" Ward, and

Michael Brittain was able to capitalize on the subsequent possession.

Johnson would heat up in the late second half, scoring 10 of CAU's last 12 points. But the Chargers would just be too strong for the Panthers. UAH would go on an 11-3 run in the final four minutes, to close the game out, 81-96.

Johnson and Williams would lead the Panthers with 19 and 17 points, respectively. Williams and Tim Sanders would both grab six rebounds. UAH's all-conference Roberts finished with 26 points.

Coach Walker hopes to change basketball culture at CAU

By Craig Allen Brown
SPORTS EDITOR

Throughout Darrell Walker's basketball career, he has demonstrated a strong desire to always compete at the highest level. This mindset has significantly shifted the culture of the men's basketball program at Clark Atlanta University.

Coach Walker was fortunate to play at the University of Arkansas for one of college basketball's all-time greats, College Basketball Hall of Fame inductee Eddie Sutton. In his senior year, Walker led the Razorbacks to a 26-4 record and the Sweet Sixteen round of the NCAA tournament.

He would be selected in the first round of the NBA Draft, and would compete in the NBA for 10 years, eventually winning a World Championship alongside, arguably, one of the greatest coaches and one of the greatest players of all time: Phil Jackson and Michael Jordan, respectively.

Coach Walker states that even while serving in the NBA as an assistant coach, he always had dreams of becoming a college coach. Odds have it that the new coach would certainly be a good fit, as he had learned a great deal while playing for three Hall of Fame coaches during his time in the pros: Jackson, Chuck Daly and Wes Unseld.

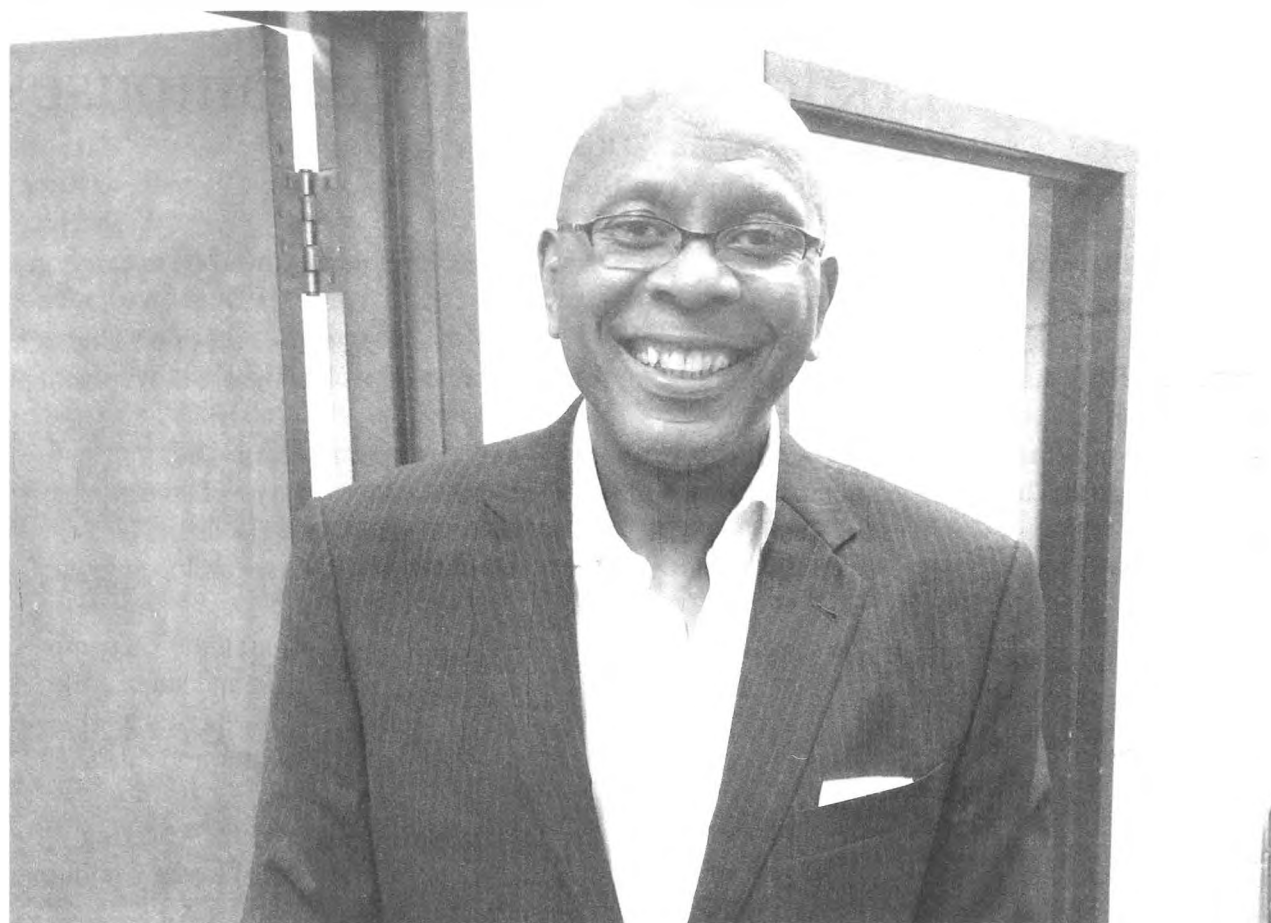
Coach Walker has never deviated from his stated objective: he was clear that the team's goal was to win a national championship. He was intent on winning, and was dedicated to making the men's program a winning one. He also placed as much emphasis on education as he did basketball. Last year, Walker coordinated an art auction, with proceeds going to the costs of summer school for his players, ensuring that they would have the opportunity

to graduate on time. Also, it is not uncommon for Coach Walker to ride around in a golf cart, going to his players' classes, to ensure that they are attending regularly. "When you get a kid to come play for you, it's important that they leave here with a degree," he said. He cites his ability to have a positive effect on his players' lives off the court as one of his most important responsibilities. In attempting to take the team even further next year, he and assistant coach Alfred Jordan have committed to making next year's team bigger and even more athletic.

In his first year as head coach of the men's team, he more than doubled the win total from the previous year, collecting 21 wins as

opposed to a total of just nine all of last year. The team went on a four-game winning streak to end the regular season, clinching a share of the SIAC East regular season championship. His team led or tied the SIAC East in the number of division, conference, and overall wins. The Panthers won the SIAC men's tournament, and Coach Walker was named the SIAC Tournament Coach of the Year. The Panthers were also awarded a berth in the NCAA Tournament, its first in five years.

"I'm excited about being here," Coach Walker said. "We're going to get better, and we're to keep winning games. We're headed in the right direction."



Head Basketball Coach Darrell Walker